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Montana Committee for the Humanities

An Affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities

This release is available electronically on INN (News Net.)

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MONTANA HUMANITIES COMMITTEE WINS NATIONAL AWARD

MISSOULA —

The Montana Committee for the Humanities received the prestigious Helen and Martin Schwartz Prize for Excellence in Public Programming during a Nov. 18 ceremony in Washington, D.C. The award is given by the Federation of State Humanities Councils, and National Endowment for the Humanities Chair William Ferris was present at the award luncheon.

Established by a 1982 endowment gift, the Schwartz Prize honors the nation's best public humanities program. MCH earned the prize for its Bozeman Trail Heritage Conference, which the committee supported with an \$18,000 grant.

The July 1999 conference took place in Bozeman and other sites along the historic Bozeman Trail. Nearly 400 people – many from out of state – attended the four-day event, which featured a veritable “who’s who” of Western and American Indian historians and writers. The Montana Historical Society, which sponsored the conference, will publish a collection of essays from the event next year.

The award is MCH's third Schwartz Prize. The committee earned the honor previously

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for its 1984 Montana State University LOGON '83 conference and 1994 "Montana This Morning" television series. Only one other state humanities council has received the prize three times.

Located on The University of Montana campus in Missoula, MCH is an independent nonprofit state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities, a federal agency that supports learning in history, philosophy, literature and other humanities disciplines. Founded in 1972, MCH provides grants for public humanities programs, a statewide speakers bureau and a media library. MCH also serves as the Montana Center for the Book, which sponsors the annual Montana Festival of the Book

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